



The Political Scene Conservation Reserve Program The Past and Future



Jim Wiesemeyer

June 8, 2004

Main Topics

- **The beginning:** Working with Sen. Zorinsky
- **Changes:** From supply management to environmental/conservation focus
- **2002 Farm Bill:** Higher maximum cap; USDA report on CRP impact
- **What Farmers Say About CRP**
- **The future:** Budget deficit impact; CSP

CRP's Beginning

- **1985**
 - **Burdensome grain stocks, low prices**
 - **1985 Farm Bill**
 - **Working with former Sen. Ed Zorinsky (D-Neb.)**
 - **1986: First year(s) of most farm programs offer attractive terms**

Changes

- **Bonus to attract corn, sorghum acres, 1987**
- **Funding moved from annual appropriations to the Commodity Credit Corporation**
- **Bidding process changes**
- **1990 Farm Bill added special programs to complement CRP**
 - **Watersheds, wetlands**
- **Glickman moves program to more environmental focus: EBI**
- **Increased focus on wildlife**

2002 Farm Bill

- **Maximum CRP acreage cap raised**
- **Congress mandates USDA report on impact of CRP**

2004

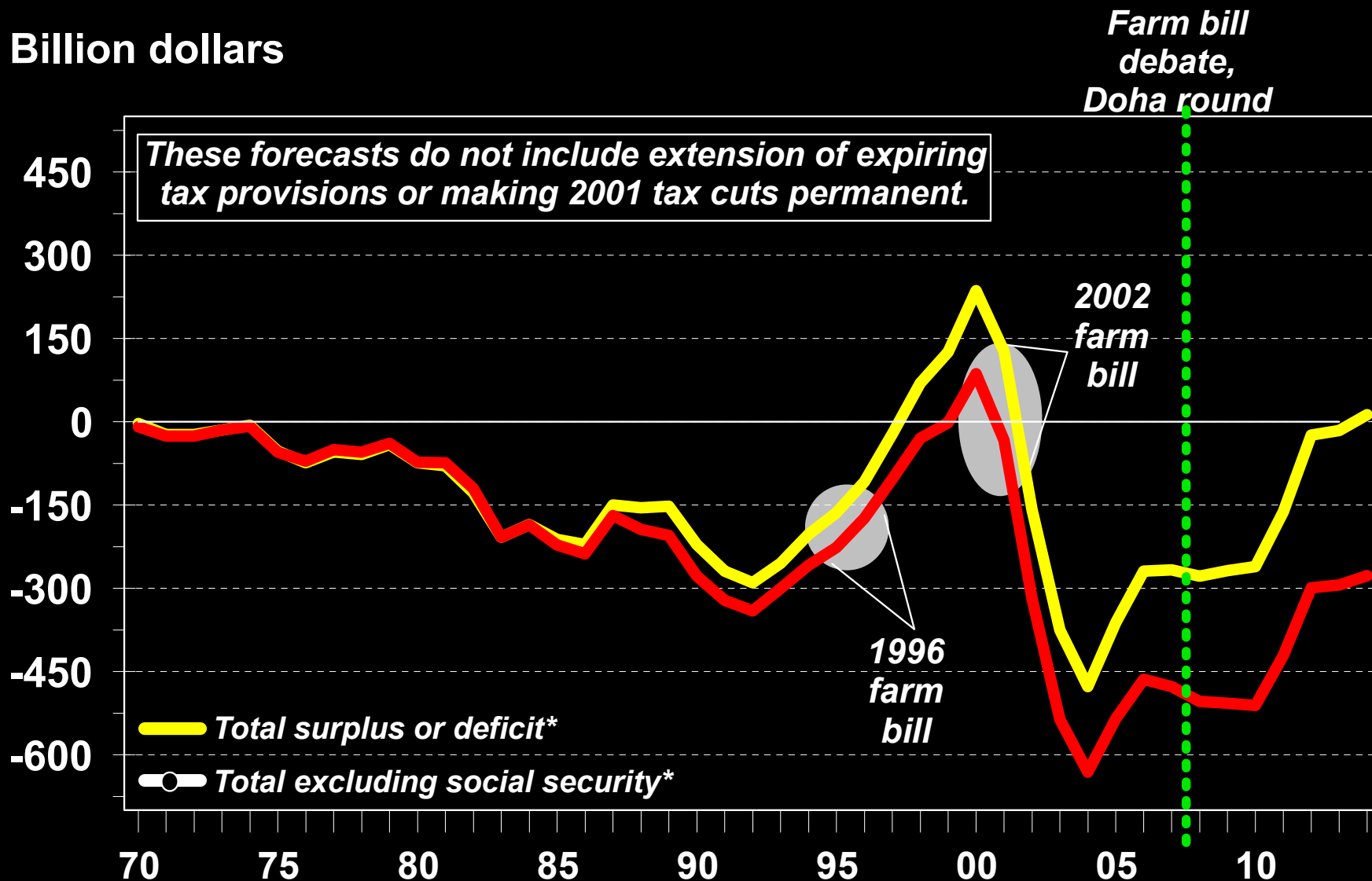
- **No spring CRP signup**
 - **USDA cites high commodity prices, low grain stocks**
 - **Analysis?**

What Farmers Say About CRP

- Check Internet at www.agweb.com
- email editors@profarmer.com
- Email wiesemeyer@earthlink.net

U. S. Federal Budget Outlook

Billion dollars



**Total surplus or deficit includes social security trust funds & postal service. On budget estimates exclude trust funds.*

Future

- **Budget deficit impact**
 - Move to reduce CRP maximum acres
 - Nutrition lobbyists teaming with conservation and environment lobbyists
 - Smoke and mirrors with CSP funding
- **Need to reinvent CRP**
- **Impact of CSP on CRP**
- **Election impact**



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